

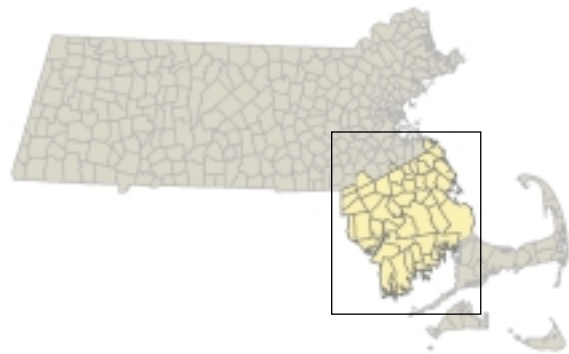
T H E S O U T H E A S T

W A T E R S H E D S

The Southeast Watersheds is a region rich in rare species, water supply, agriculture, and outdoor recreation. Southeastern Massachusetts is comprised of many clearly defined diverse watersheds, including the South Coastal Watersheds, Taunton River, Ten Mile River, Narragansett Bay, Mount Hope Bay, and Buzzards Bay.

This region continues to be a high priority for EOEA and its non-profit partners, with more money being spent on this region than any other during the past three years. In addition to the projects highlighted in this chapter, several parcels in the Canoe River Aquifer were protected through Self-Help and transfers pending from the Massachusetts Highway Department to DFWELE. A special round of Self-Help was devoted to the southeast region and helped fund excellent acquisitions such as the Tubbs Meadow, a 100-acre cranberry bog and meadow at the headwaters of two rivers. The eight towns in the Ten Mile River Watershed completed a united open space plan that strives to expand on great inter-town open space corridors such as the Bungay River corridor (see description below) in the City of Attleboro.

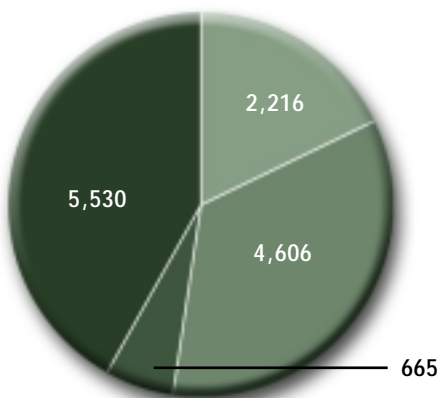
EOEA and its non-profit partners will continue to protect important large-scale greenways and blocks of conservation land. Currently, an effort is underway with EOEA, land trusts, and local communities to connect the 14,000-acre Southeastern Massachusetts Bioserve in Fall River (see description below)



and the 15,000-acre Myles Standish State Forest to the coast. A key link in this corridor is the 4,000 acres of land surrounding the Assawampset Pond complex, where a conservation agreement is nearly complete. Additionally, The Buzzards Bay Greenway is a vision of several non-profits including the Coalition for the Buzzards Bay and TTOR. This corridor would link the aforementioned lands to open space and farmland along Buzzards Bay, including the Westport River Watershed. The towns that authored the Ten Mile and Narragansett Open Space Plan, including the headwaters of the Palmer, Bungay and Ten Mile Rivers and unique ledge formations in Attleboro, Dighton and Taunton, also envision several large-scale blocks of open space.

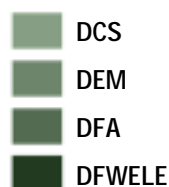
S o u t h e a s t L a n d P r o t e c t i o n S u m m a r y

A C R E S



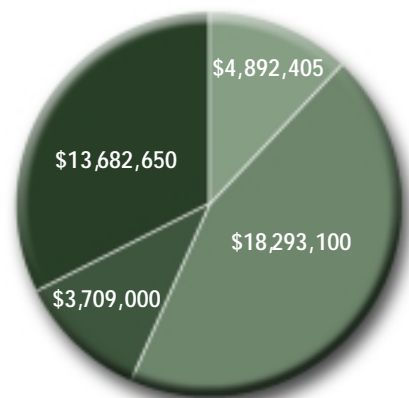
Total Acres: 13,017

A G E N C Y



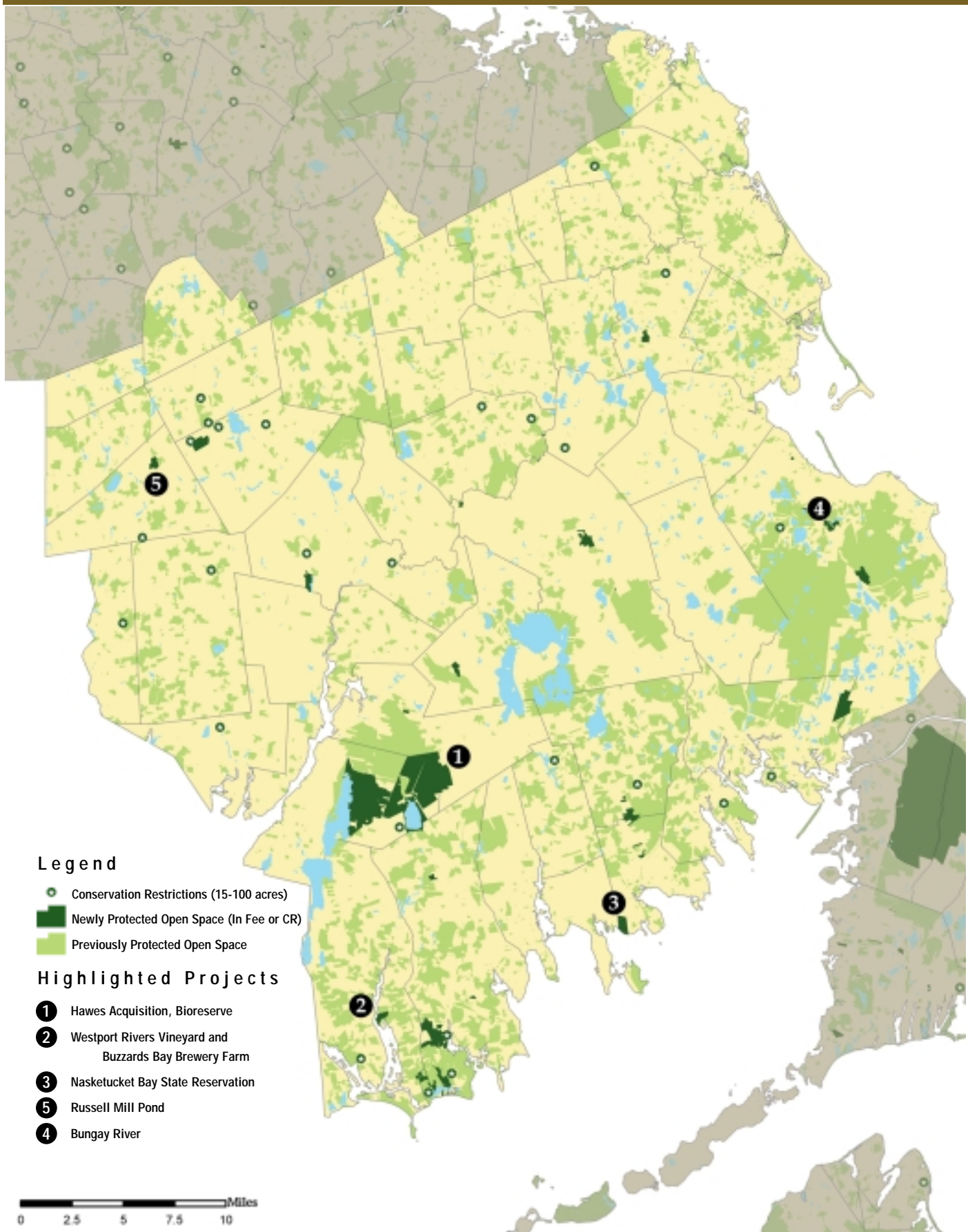
Total Projects: 105

S T A T E F U N D S



Total Funds: \$30,677,155

The Southeast Watersheds



HAWES ACQUISITION, SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS BIORESERVE

DEM/DFWELE • Fall River, Freetown • 3,057 acres
Fee and CR • \$8,500,000

Recognizing a dwindling opportunity to protect large, connected, intact open spaces throughout the Commonwealth, Secretary of Environmental Affairs Bob Durand made large scale land protection one his first priorities after being sworn in as Secretary in January of 1999. Southeastern Massachusetts, where growth and development rates are one of the highest in the state, was a prime candidate for this priority. In 2000, EOE, DEM, and DFWELE worked with TTOR and the City of Fall River to acquire 3,057 acres of the 3,800-acre Hawes property in Fall River, one of the largest contiguous single ownerships remaining in eastern Massachusetts. The City of Fall River is unusual because, while its western 12 square miles are densely developed, the eastern 12 square miles are mostly undeveloped.

The Hawes parcels were acquired as the first phase of a multi-phase acquisition project that will create the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve. DEM and DFWELE purchased an additional 234 acres of the Hawes property in January of 2002. In the next phase of the project, TTOR will purchase the remaining 509 acres of the Hawes land and convey a CR on the land to DEM and DFWELE. In addition, the city will grant a CR on the adjacent 4,300-acre city water supply lands to DEM



and DFWELE so that this land will also be permanently protected from development.

These holdings, together with DEM's adjacent 5,100-acre Freetown-Fall River State Forest and DFWELE's 360-acre Acushnet Wildlife Management Area, will create a 14,000-acre permanently protected area that will be jointly managed by DEM, DFWELE, Fall River, and TTOR as the state's first Bioreserve, a conservation area large enough to protect native plant and animal species representative of southeastern Massachusetts.

The total cost for the creation of the Bioreserve will be \$16,100,000. EOE agencies will contribute \$9,650,000, the city will contribute \$2,450,000, and TTOR will contribute \$2,000,000 in acquisition costs, along with a commitment to raise an additional \$2,000,000 to build and manage a gateway education center for the Bioreserve.

The Bioreserve is located less than 10 miles from more than 500,000 people and will provide an opportunity for a wide range of people to learn about the diversity of plant and animal life. The project will also protect one of the largest tracts of native woodland in southeast Massachusetts and an abundant water supply for Fall River's future.



Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve Map





WESTPORT RIVER VINEYARD AND BUZZARDS BAY BREWERY FARM

DFA • Westport • 230 acres • APR • \$1,500,000

The Buzzards Bay Brewery Farm and the nearby Westport River Vineyard and Winery, overlooking the East Branch of the Westport River in Westport, are two of Westport's best-known agricultural operations. Owned and operated by Robert and Carol Russell, the farms total 230 acres and contain one mile of undeveloped river shoreline, nearly 60 acres of award-winning grapevines, more than 50 acres of hops and barley, and 21 acres of rolling hayfields. The Russells permanently protected their farmland from development with an APR through DFA's APR Program, adding significantly to the 1,300 acres of farmland already protected by APRs in Westport.

DFA worked in partnership with the Westport Land Conservation Trust (WLCT), The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR), and the Town of Westport to protect the vineyard and brewery properties. WLCT and TTOR pre-acquired the APR on the Westport Rivers Vineyard Property. In addition, the project was made possible by the Russells' generosity. Bob and Carol Russell donated the APR on the Brewery property and sold the APR on the Vineyard at a significantly reduced rate, in effect donating approximately 25% of the funding for the project.



RUSSELL MILL POND

DCS • Plymouth • 128 acres • Grant
\$810,000 DCS, \$1,350,000 total cost

The purchase of this 128-acre tract of unspoiled land at the headwaters of the Eel River by the Town of Plymouth was 60% funded with a Self-Help grant. Rolling terrain, frontage along Russell Mill Pond, and remains of historic mill structures contribute to the parcel's high scenic and recreation value. Streams, two ponds, rich spring seepage wetlands, native eastern brook trout, the rare bridle shiner, and good waterfowl habitat are highlights of the property.

The diverse mix of habitats on the property, including park-like grassy openings and undisturbed forests, will be managed by the Plymouth Conservation Commission for resource protection as well as passive recreation.

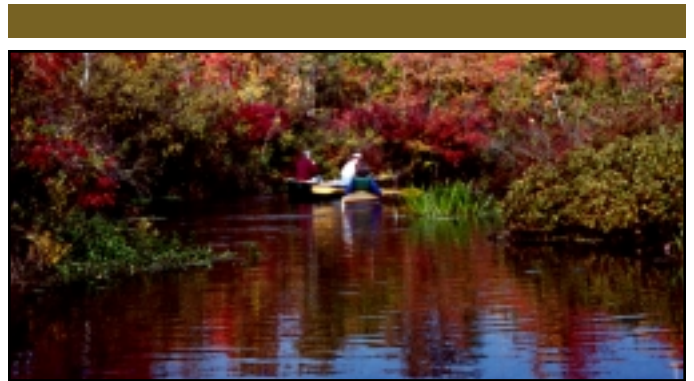


NASKETUCKET BAY STATE RESERVATION

DEM • Mattapoisett • 209 acres • Fee • \$8,150,000

In January of 1999, DEM established a new 209-acre coastal state park in the Town of Mattapoisett, now known as the Nasketucket Bay State Reservation. Prior to its acquisition, the property was one of the largest undeveloped and unprotected parcels remaining on the shores of Buzzard's Bay, as well as among the most extensive coastal properties to come on the market in the last decade. DEM, with help from local land trusts including the Fairhaven Land Preservation Trust and Mattapoisett Land Trust, acquired the property from a group of developers who had completed planning and permitting for a 130-lot residential subdivision. The property was slated to become a gated community with the prospect of additional lots in the future. In the final hours of the project, another group of developers interested in purchasing the property to build an exclusive golf course did all they could, unsuccessfully, to derail the public acquisition and protection of the property.

The reservation encompasses extensive wetlands, open areas, coastal habitats, and five types of forest, including a rare stand of maritime forest featuring black tupelo trees. The new park is ideal for passive recreation, with 3,400 feet of coastline curving along the rocky shore, and miles of forest trails. The property's extensive and undeveloped shoreline provides visitors with an unusual sense of solitude, and even wildness, especially for an area only five miles from the large city of New Bedford.



BUNGAY RIVER

DCS • Attleboro • 107 acres • Grant
\$250,000 DCS, \$558,700 total cost

In 2000, the City of Attleboro purchased 107 acres of land in six parcels along the Bungay River using \$250,000 in Self-Help Program assistance. Attleboro had previously acquired 100 acres of the floodplain – some of it purchased with Self-Help funding in the late 1960s – with the eventual goal of protecting over 700 acres along the river.

The Self-Help Program awarded funding for this purchase not only because the project augmented existing conservation areas, but also because it protected valuable wildlife habitat. The property had been identified by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) as an area of high-priority rare species habitat that contains significant migration and breeding habitat for black duck, wood duck, and mallards. The parcel is also archaeologically significant and contains an atlantic white cedar stand.